

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
December 4, 2008

SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL BLOCK GRANT NO. 4 - AUGMENTATION

File No. 07-063-02
Project Manager: Moira McEnespy

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to an additional \$3,000,000 to the Association of Bay Area Governments to evaluate, select, design and fund implementation of projects to complete the San Francisco Bay Trail.

LOCATION: Various locations throughout the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties

PROGRAM CATEGORY: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program

EXHIBITS

- Exhibit 1: [Project Location and Site Map](#)
 - Exhibit 2: [San Francisco Bay Trail Map](#)
 - Exhibit 3: [Coastal Conservancy Staff Recommendation for San Francisco Bay Trail Block Grant No. 4 \(File No. 07-063-01, September 20, 2007\)](#)
 - Exhibit 4: [Block Grant No. 4 Projects – Summary to Date](#)
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RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31160-31165 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to an additional \$3,000,000 (three million dollars) to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) for the San Francisco Bay Trail Project (Bay Trail Project), its associated nonprofit organization, to evaluate, select, design and fund implementation of individual projects to complete the San Francisco Bay Trail. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the execution of an agreement with each individual project grantee, ABAG shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, schedule and budget for each project, including ABAG’s project development and administrative work.

2. Conservancy funds shall not be disbursed for implementation of any proposed project that is not exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act until the Conservancy authorizes the proposed project.
3. ABAG and the Bay Trail Project shall not expend more than \$1,000,000 of these funds until after July 1, 2009.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines updated by the Conservancy on September 20, 2007.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access to and around San Francisco Bay.”

PROJECT SUMMARY:

On September 20, 2007, the Conservancy authorized disbursement of up to \$3,000,000 (Bay Trail Block Grant No. 4) to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) for the San Francisco Bay Trail Project (Bay Trail Project), its associated nonprofit organization, to complete various segments of the San Francisco Bay Trail (Bay Trail, see Exhibits 1-3). These funds are being used to solicit and evaluate grant proposals, to recommend to the Conservancy the award of grant funds to selected projects, to help design selected projects, to fund implementation of selected projects, to monitor implementation of funded projects, and for related matters including administrative costs. (See Exhibit 3 “Project Summary” section for additional background).

ABAG disbursed a portion of the previously-authorized \$3,000,000 in 17 grants that were used to implement a bay-wide sign program, and plan/design over 15 miles and construct over eight miles of Bay Trail (see summary of projects in Exhibit 4). As almost all of these block grant funds have been committed to projects (less than \$150,000 remains), staff now recommends that the Conservancy authorize disbursement of up to an additional \$3,000,000 to ABAG to continue this work to complete the Bay Trail.

Site Description: See Exhibit 3 “Site Description” section.

Project History: The Conservancy has authorized four Bay Trail block grants to ABAG: \$2,500,000 in September 1999 (funding from the General Fund), \$7,387,500 in December 2000 (funding from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund, “Proposition 12”), \$3.8 million in September 2004 (funding from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act, “Proposition 40”), and \$3,000,000 in September 2007 (funding from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, “Proposition 84”). Over 100 Bay Trail projects have been undertaken through these four previous grants.

PROJECT FINANCING:

Coastal Conservancy	\$3,000,000
Other sources	<u>14,216,795</u>
Total Project Cost	\$17,216,795

The anticipated source of Conservancy funds is the “Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006” (Proposition 84). These funds are available for all the purposes of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program and are thus appropriate for the funding implementation of the San Francisco Bay Trail. The Bay Trail Project anticipates matching Conservancy funds at a 1:4.50 ratio.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31160-31165 regarding San Francisco Bay Area projects.

The proposed project is consistent with Section 31162(a) because it will improve public access to and around the bay by helping to complete the San Francisco Bay Trail, a regional trail system. The proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on agricultural operations, environmentally-sensitive areas or wildlife. In addition, the project is consistent with many locally- and regionally-adopted Master Plans and General Plans, as nine counties and 47 cities have officially adopted the Bay Trail alignment in local plans or passed resolutions in support of the Bay Trail concept.

Consistent with Section 31163(a), the Conservancy cooperates with nonprofit land trusts and other organizations in identifying and adopting long-term resource and outdoor recreational goals for the San Francisco Bay Area. Goals for the San Francisco Bay Trail are most recently identified in the document entitled *The San Francisco Bay Trail Project Gap Analysis Study: A Report on Closing the Gaps in the 500-mile Regional Trail System Encircling San Francisco Bay* (prepared for ABAG August 2005).

Consistent with Section 31163(c), the proposed project is supported by an adopted regional plan (see the Exhibit 3, “Consistency with the San Francisco Bay Plan” section), serves a regional constituency, can be implemented in a timely way, and includes matching contributions from other sources of funding or assistance (see the “Project Financing” section).

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S 2007
STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

Consistent with **Goal 11, Objectives D and E** of the Conservancy’s 2007 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will result in the development of plans for and construction of segments of the San Francisco Bay Trail.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S
PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:**

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on September 20, 2007, in the following respects:

Required Criteria

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes:** See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation" section above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See the "Project Financing" section above.
3. **Support of the public:** The public remains supportive of the San Francisco Bay Trail (see Exhibit 3).
4. **Location:** The proposed project will be carried out on the San Francisco Bay Trail alignment, which follows the shorelines of the nine Bay Area counties.
5. **Need:** The proposed project will not occur absent Conservancy participation.
6. **Greater-than-local interest:** The San Francisco Bay Trail is a regional trail network that will be approximately 500 miles in length when completed. This authorization will help further the completion of the trail, of which almost 300 miles have been completed to date.

**CONSISTENCY WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN AND COMPLIANCE WITH
CEQA:**

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy's September 20, 2007 authorization with respect to the Bay Plan and CEQA. (See Exhibit 3).